

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2018

RE: RVS stakeholders asked for feedback on cost-saving transportation bundles

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees is again reaching out to its stakeholders to provide feedback into its student transportation consultation, aimed at addressing an anticipated \$1 million shortfall to our transportation budget.

“On March 12, our jurisdiction will release the second online survey asking for parent and staff feedback on cost-saving transportation bundles,” said Board Chair Todd Brand. “These bundles were crafted with insight gained through our initial consultation activities, which included public meetings and an online survey.”

According to Brand, from January 25 to February 16, RVS asked its parents and staff to complete an online survey that outlined several cost-saving measures and/or proposals to transfer monies from instruction (classroom funding) to transportation. The Board also released a communique and hosted three public meetings in Airdrie, Cochrane, and Chestermere to build parent and staff understanding of the budget issue.

“From these consultation activities, our Board was pleased to learn and share the belief that monies should not be transferred from instruction to cover this operating deficit. Rather stakeholders asked that we find the monies through transportation efficiencies, advocating to government to adequately fund transportation, and/or increasing fees.

“We also learned that the legislative requirements surrounding An Act to Reduce School Fees are not well understood by the public; many parents and staff believe RVS should just reintroduce bus fees for all transportation families, when in fact it would be against the law,” he said.

With stakeholder insight in hand, Brand said the Board has developed four transportation bundles and will ask its parents and staff to identify their preference by completing a new online survey, open from March 12 to 30, 2018. Accompanying the release of the survey is an [eight-page communique](#), outlining the results of the Board's first survey, the bundles being presented, and a question and answer.

The Board will deliberate its decision at its April 12 public Board Meeting.

Since 2008 transportation costs have risen by 17.83 percent, while grant revenues rose by only 1.27 percent over the same time period. This shortfall in funding is further compounded by a \$360,000 levy for carbon and changes implemented by government through the recent Act to Reduce School Fees.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Lily Habberfield, Manager of Communications, 403.945.4144